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1962/10/27

~~TOP SECRET~~

27 October 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

SUBJECT: Development of Special Unit

This is to verify previous verbal instructions from my office to the Department of Army concerning the following sensitive mission on which selected officers of your staff are already at work:

By 1 November 1962, you are to organize, equip, and, at Fort Knox, give rudimentary training to a light infantry battalion composed principally of Cubans with a strength in the vicinity of 150. This unit will be prepared for deployment and to undertake limited operations if necessary.

The concept of the operation is as follows:

a. The source of Cuban personnel will be the revised and accelerated voluntary induction program.

b. The command structure and backbone of the battalion will be provided by Special Forces detachments, augmented as necessary.

c. The program will select and develop Cuban personnel to augment the present U.S. training center. The activities of the Cuban training program at Fort Knox will be limited to this purpose. The 10-man pre-arrival training detachments have been organized from the Special Forces units. These units will coordinate the operational activities of the Cuban personnel.

d. The training will include, but not be limited to, the following: physical training, marksmanship, communications, and rudimentary combat and survival training.

PDASD/ISA

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Funds necessary to the accomplishment of this undertaking will be derived from existing Department of Army FY 63 appropriations.

Signed
ROSWELL L. GILPATRICK
Deputy Secretary of Defense

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27 October 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

SUBJECT: Development of Special Unit

This is to verify previous verbal instructions from my office to the Department of Army concerning the following sensitive mission on which selected officers of your staff are already at work.

By 2 November 1962, you are to organize, equip, and, at Fort Knox, give rudimentary training to a light infantry battalion composed principally of Cubans with a strength in the vicinity of 230. This unit will be prepared for deployment and to undertake limited operations if necessary.

The concept of the operation is as follows:

- a. The source of Cuban personnel will be the revised and accelerated voluntary induction program.
- b. The command structure and backbone of the battalion will be provided by Special Forces detachments, augmented if necessary.
- c. The program will select and [illegible] Cuban trainees to augment the present U.S. training cadre. The initiation of the regular Cuban training program at Fort Knox is being [illegible] this purpose. The 50-man pre-[illegible] training detachments [illegible] have been organized from the initial increments of Cuban trainees will [illegible] the operational companies of the [illegible] battalion.
- d. The training detachments will be moved through an "experimental" training [illegible] firing, first aid, and sanitation, and rudimentary squad and platoon tactics.

Funds necessary to the accomplishment of the undertaking will be derived from existing Department of Army FY as appropriations.

Signed
ROSWELL L. GILPATRIC
Deputy Secretary of Defense

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